

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for participating in the case interview. During the interview, the Examiner suggested that Applicants amend the claims to clarify the invention.

Claims 2-4 and 6-22 are currently pending in the application. Claims 2-4, 9, and 12-22 have been amended. New claim 23 has been added.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 2-4, 6, and 9-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,493,692 (Theimer).

Theimer is directed to a method for selectively delivering electronic messages to an identified user or users in a system of mobile and fixed devices, including multiple display devices and multiple users, based on the context of the system and the environment of the identified user.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 2-4, 9, and 12-22 are patentable over Theimer, as Theimer fails to disclose, "said attribute defining a role-based relationship between the first user requesting communication and the second user," as recited in claim 1, for example.

In contrast to the present invention in which role-based relationships are defined, Theimer simply discloses restricting responses to a subset of all possible clients. Assuming *arguendo* that a relationship may be inferred between the subset of clients and the user, Theimer is silent regarding a *role-based* relationship.

Therefore, the above-identified independent claims are patentable over the reference. As dependent claims 6 and 10-11 depend from independent claims 4 and 9, respectively, the dependent claims are patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented for the independent claims.

On page 6 of the Office Action, claims 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,493,692 (Theimer) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,943,478 (Aggarwal).

Applicants respectfully submit that as Aggarwal is simply related to a system for sending popup messages between users and does not provide or suggest information regarding defining a role-based relationship, Aggarwal does not cure the deficiencies of Theimer. Therefore, claims 7-8, via independent claim 4, are patentable over the references.

Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 23 is patentable over the references, as neither Theimer nor Aggarwal, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests, "in response to a communication request, retrieving said policy and determining and applying a process based on said policy," wherein the policy includes "requestee status, content of a requested communication, and an attribute defining a relationship between a first user and a second user," as recited in claim 23.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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